

a plug portion adapted to be force-fitted into an aperture and defining an axis of the plinth, and

an abutment portion disposed between the plug portion and the diode casing, the abutment portion projecting with respect to the plug portion in a direction radial to said axis, wherein the plug portion has a smaller radius than the abutment portion.

Claim 2. (Previously Amended): A plinth according to Claim 1, wherein the abutment portion has an upper engagement face oriented away from the plug portion and defining a flat upper engagement zone at right angles to said axis.

Claim 3. (Previously Amended): A plinth according to Claim 2, wherein the abutment portion defines a cavity for receiving said diode said cavity having an upper engagement face projecting from said cavity in the axial direction.

Claim 4. (Previously Amended): A plinth according to Claim 1, wherein the abutment portion has a lower engagement face oriented towards the plug portion and defining a flat lower engagement zone at right angles to said axis.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended): An assembly comprising:

a diode having a casing consisting of metal and

a plinth welded to the diode casing, the plinth comprising (a) a plug portion adapted to be force-fitted into an aperture and defining an axis of the plinth, and (b) an abutment portion projecting with respect to the plug portion in a direction radial to said axis,

wherein the plug portion has a smaller radius than the abutment portion.

Claim 6. (Previously Amended): An assembly according to Claim 5, wherein the abutment portion of the plinth is interposed between the diode and the plug portion in the axial direction.

Claim 7. (Original): An assembly according to Claim 5, wherein the abutment portion of the plinth projects from the diode in a direction radial to the axis.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended): An alternator including a support having a hole and an assembly, said assembly comprising

a diode having a casing consisting of metal, and

a plinth welded to the diode casing, the plinth comprising (a) a plug portion adapted to be force-fitted into an aperture and defining an axis of the plinth, and (b) an abutment portion projecting with respect to the plug portion in a direction radial to said axis, wherein the plug portion has a smaller radius than the abutment portion,

and with the plug portion of the plinth force-fitted into said hole in the support.

Claim 9. (Previously Amended): The alternator according to claim 8, wherein the abutment portion of the plinth is disposed on an opposite side of the support from a stator.

Claim 10. (Previously Amended): An alternator according to Claim 8, wherein said hole is a blind hole.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended): A plinth for supporting a diode, said diode having a casing consisting of metal welded to the plinth, said plinth comprising:

a plug portion having an upper face and defining an axis at a right angle to the upper face;
and

an abutment portion contiguous with the plug portion and projecting upwardly from the upper face of the plug portion in the direction of the axis, the abutment portion having a cavity at its upper face for receiving one end of said diode, wherein a radius of the plug portion is smaller than a radius of the abutment portion.

Claim 12. (Previously Added): The plinth according to claim 11 wherein the plinth comprises an electrically conductive metal.

Claim 13. (Previously Added): The plinth according to claim 11 wherein the plinth comprises one integral piece.

Claim 14. (Previously Added): The plinth according to claim 11 wherein the plug portion and the abutment portion are cylindrical in shape with respect to the direction of the axis, and the plug portion has a smaller radius than the abutment portion.

Claim 15. (Previously Added): The plinth according to claim 11 wherein the diode is welded to the plinth.

Claim 16. (Previously Added): The plinth according to claim 11 wherein the plug portion and the abutment portion are thick discs.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended): A motor vehicle alternator comprising:
a plinth adapted to support a diode having a casing of metal, wherein the diode casing is welded to the plinth, the plinth comprising (a) a plug portion adapted to be force-fitted into an aperture and defining an axis of the plinth, and (b) an abutment portion projecting with respect to the plug portion in a direction radial to said axis,

wherein the plug portion has a smaller radius than the abutment portion and a diode affixed to the plinth.

Claim 18. (Previously Added): A plinth according to Claim 1, wherein the casing is metallic.

Claim 19. (Previously Added): An assembly according to Claim 5, wherein the casing is metallic.